

MARYLAND GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF COMMUNITY INITIATIVES (GOCI)
MARYLAND COMMISSION ON INDIAN AFFAIRS (MCIA)

MINUTES OF FEBRUARY MEETING:
February 1, 2010

Department of Natural Resources
Tawes State Office Building
Conference Room C-1
Annapolis, Maryland
7:00 - 9:00 P.M.

Present: Vice Chair Thomas Windsor, II, Virginia Busby, Wanda Lee, Sherry Majors, Cornelius Allen Red Deer, Guy Wells

Absent: Chair Auriel Fenwick, Kathryn E. Robbins Fitzhugh

Staff Present: E. Keith Colston, Susan Driscoll

I. CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME: Commissioner/Vice Chair Thomas Windsor called the meeting to order.

It was agreed that the Minutes for November and the Administrative Report for February will be reviewed and put on the website.

There was a discussion about the incorporation of the Advisory Committee. The Commission discussed having a March deadline for the Advisory Committee.

The Commission spoke about having the demographic study updated since the information is from 2005. Administrator Keith Colston will check with Administrative Assistant Agnes M. Smith and the Department of Planning to get the updated information.

II. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT: Administrator Keith Colston spoke about the different events and meetings he attended throughout the month. He encouraged everyone to look at MCIA's website for dates and locations for different events and to also send information to the Office to be posted on the website. He let the community know that there help was needed in order to let the community know what's happening.

III. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

REPATRIATION:

Commissioner Virginia Busby noted that there will be a Repatriation Meeting on Friday, February 5, 2010 to make sure the needs are met in a timely fashion. The reburial will be on State land so that NAGRO don't have to be consulted. The burial sites will include the Piscataway, Middle Maryland, Southern Maryland and Western Maryland. It was noted that the cluster of remains associated with the Thomas Site will be reburied with some protocols as prior Thomas Site items. The Eastern Shore site is the Department of Natural Resources land. The Piscataway site is the Federal Government land. For Western Maryland, Chief Joseph Crow Neale desires to have re-burial on tribal land. Chief Sewell E. Winterhawk Fitzhugh will discuss

this with Chief Neale. The Repatriation Committee will have six more meetings. The next meeting will be advertised on MCIA's website

Commissioner Cornelius Allen Red Deer noted that the Repatriation Committee is working hard to get the remains in the ground. He suggested that the remains from outside of the State could be held at Jefferson Patterson Park. There was a comment that no museum should have Native American remains.

Commissioner Wanda Lee noted that she has a problem with this as well.

Mr. Rico Newman informed the Commission that Jefferson Patterson Park was chosen because they are a State agency, not because they were a museum. They only went to Jefferson Patterson Park because they had to be moved from a hospital scheduled to be demolished.

Commissioner Red Deer asked that the remains be put on State land, but not in Jefferson Patterson Park Museum. He noted that the ancestors need a better resting place. They need a private resting area for Native only community not easily accessible to the general public. They need a high level of protection because of security. A Native American can go to the park and see other artifacts at Jefferson Patterson Park MAC Lab. The visibility at Jefferson Patterson Park is too high.

Mr. Bob Gladys said that the John Smith Re-enactment at Indian Village with yards of the original location have three to five thousand children come to see each year. He noted that the burial will be away from the museum, but close to the village where Native people of Maryland can control it. There will be no control by the MAC Lab staff. Mr. Gladys said that he disagreed with Commissioner Red Deer's opinion.

There was a discussion about having the remains located at Jefferson Patterson Park Museum. Vice Chair Windsor asked Commissioner Busby to please forward the date of the next meeting so that it could be advertised on MCIA's website.

IV. RECURRING BUSINESS:

CENSUS:

Ms. Roxanne Lucas, Senior Partnership Specialist spoke about promotional items for the Native American community. Ms. Lucas told the Commission that materials were customized with a feather logo for the Native American community. She noted that the Census is in the action stage to get people to return the forms. She asked the Commission to encourage people to mail back the forms. It was also noted that the Census had some part-time jobs available. There are approximately 14,000 part-time positions. Ms. Lucas noted that a person applying for a Census job can have no assault, no violence charges. She said that the Commission should still partnership with communities. Ms. Lucas spoke about a test you can take on-line for employment for the Census. It was noted/suggested that the practice test is taken first.

Commissioner Red Deer informed the Commission that there will be various Pow Wows and Census events.

It was noted that the Accohannock Indian Tribe put in form recognition following course of action. Congrats to the Accohannock Indian Tribe.

Chief Rudy Laughing Otter Hall said the people of the Eastern Shore want to be correctly identified as to who they are. He urged the Census to correctly count the Indian people so that benefits can be given to the Indian people in the State. He also noted that the Administration has been good to the Indian people in the State of Maryland.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.